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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT,
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Kurdish Commander for Iraqi Army - Sabah
Protests Against Denktas - Milliyet
AKP/CHP Cooperation Against Military Coups - Milliyet
Denktas Accuses Turkey of Sacrificing Cyprus For the EU -
Hurriyet
Erdogan Rejects Israeli Businessmen - Sabah

OPINION MAKERS

Government Considers 10 Changes in the Constitution -Radikal
UN confirms: Srebrenica was Genocide - Radikal
Denktas: Cyprus Sacrificed for EU - Cumhuriyet
Bremer: Iraq Needs Foreign Support to Establish Security -
Cumhuriyet
Crisis in the Bush Cabinet - Cumhuriyet
Greek Cypriots Censor Verheugen Speeches on TV - Zaman
US Disappointed With Spanish Military Withdrawal - Zaman
Powell Crisis in the White House - Yeni Safak
Bush is the Leader of the Crusaders - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Cyprus: "Milliyet" reports that 'TRNC President' Rauf Denktas visited some villages last weekend in Cyprus to campaign against the Annan plan. However, Denktas was met by protesters in almost every village, including Yesilirmak, which will be left to the Greek Cypriots if the UN plan is accepted. "Cumhuriyet" reports that Denktas criticized the Turkish government harshly for 'sacrificing' Cyprus for the sake of EU accession. "Turkiye" notes that 'TRNC Prime Minister' Mehmet Ali Talat urged people to vote for 'yes' at the referendum, arguing that the plan will benefit Turkish Cypriots. "Sabah" says that 5 EU countries (Germany, Sweden, Britain, Finland and Belgium) have indicated that they are ready to recognize the 'TRNC' if the UN plan is accepted by the Turkish Cypriots and rejected by the Greek Cypriots. The paper also notes that EU Enlargement commissioner Verheugen has been barred from speaking on Greek Cypriot television in the days leading up to the April 24 referendum.

Constitutional Amendments: "Sabah" and "Yeni Safak" report that Justice Minister Cemil Cicek said that a package of some amendments will be submitted to the parliament soon. Minister Cicek stressed that Turkey needs more extensive constitutional reforms, but added that there is not sufficient time. The government will therefore submit a more limited package of reforms in the hopes of getting them approved in parliament by the middle of May. Key provisions in the constitutional reforms would change the structure of the state security courts, remove military representatives from state institutions including the Higher Education Board (YOK), and provide for increased gender equality and freedom of the press.

Iraq: "Cumhuriyet" reports that Iraqi Interim Governor Paul Bremer acknowledged that Iraqi Security Forces are not capable of establishing security in the country on their own after the transition to a new political authority on June 30. "Sabah" reports that Babekar Zebari, a Kurdish origin Iraqi from the KDP, has been assigned to lead the new Iraqi Army.

EDITORIAL OPINION

"Greek Cypriot - Russian connection"

Fikret Ertan wrote in the conservative/intellectual "Zaman" (4/20): "About 20 billion dollars of Russian capital has entered Greek Cyprus since 1995. In that period, the amount of illicit Russian money transfer to southern Cyprus has never been disclosed. . Four years ago, American inspectors determined that Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic also deposited the money he stole from Serbia into Greek Cypriot banks. The Greek Cypriots have never faced any sanctions for such illicit money transfers. . Turkish diplomacy has wasted many opportunities in opposing Greek Cypriot policies. This diplomacy has failed to secure international recognition for the 'TRNC.' Turkey has not been able to defend the cause of Turkish Cypriots. . Today it would be unfair to blame Denktas, who has merely been acting within the framework of that diplomacy. . For centuries, the western world has favored the Greek Cypriots. Their position will not change today, even if the Turkish side votes for the Annan Plan."

"Cyprus: The EU and a new identity"

Herkul Millas commented in the conservative/intellectual "Zaman" (4/20): "Those supporting the Annan Plan on both sides of Cyprus are open to the vision of a common Europe. They do not regard the Turks and Greeks as enemies. . However, the sides are not ready to live within the structure of a joint federal state. . The Turkish Cypriots' acceptance of the UN plan will reduce international pressure on Turkey. The Cyprus issue will then become a problem to be settled between the two Cypriot communities. No matter what their opponents say, the AK Party government has been the architect of this positive development."EDELMAN